



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2022

LCO No. 4922



Offered by:

REP. PETIT, 22nd Dist.
REP. O'DEA, 125th Dist.
REP. STEINBERG, 136th Dist.
REP. PARKER, 101st Dist.
REP. BUCKBEE, 67th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. **5430**

File No. 416

Cal. No. 295

"AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOIDS."

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Section 17a-673b of the 2022 supplement to the general
4 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
5 (*Effective from passage*):

6 (a) As used in this section:

7 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Mental Health and
8 Addiction Services;

9 (2) "Department" means the Department of Mental Health and
10 Addiction Services;

11 (3) "Opioid use disorder" means a medical condition characterized by
12 a problematic pattern of opioid use and misuse leading to clinically
13 significant impairment or distress; and

14 (4) "Peer navigator" means a person who (A) has experience working
15 with persons with substance use disorder, as defined in section 20-74,
16 (B) provides nonmedical mental health care and substance use services
17 to such persons, and (C) has a collaborative relationship with a health
18 care professional authorized to prescribe medications to treat opioid use
19 disorder.

20 (b) On or before January 1, ~~[2022]~~ 2023, the department shall establish,
21 within available appropriations, a pilot program in urban, suburban
22 and rural communities to serve persons with opioid use disorder in such
23 communities. The department shall establish the pilot program in up to
24 five such communities in accordance with such terms and conditions as
25 the commissioner may prescribe.

26 (c) Each community in which the pilot program is established under
27 subsection (b) of this section shall form a team of at least two peer
28 navigators. The team shall work in the community to (1) increase
29 engagement between providers of treatment services, health care and
30 social services and persons with opioid use disorder, (2) improve the
31 retention of such persons in treatment for opioid use disorder by
32 addressing social determinants of health of such persons and emerging
33 local conditions that affect such social determinants of health, and (3)
34 increase the capacity of the community to support such persons by
35 identifying and addressing systemic barriers to treatment services,
36 health care, social services and social support of such persons. The team
37 shall (A) travel throughout the community to address, in person, the
38 health care and social needs of persons with opioid use disorder, and
39 (B) be accessible to such persons through (i) a telephone number that
40 has texting capabilities, and (ii) social media. Each peer navigator that
41 participates in the pilot program shall receive regularly updated
42 training, as determined by the commissioner, on noncoercive and
43 nonstigmatizing methods for engaging those with opioid use disorder.

44 (d) On or before January 1, [2023] 2024, the commissioner shall report,
45 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
46 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
47 relating to public health regarding the success of the pilot program in
48 serving persons with opioid use disorder and any recommendations for
49 continuing the pilot program or expanding the pilot program into other
50 communities in the state."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>from passage</i>	17a-673b